



NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

This week in Washington, I stood up against the Republicans' new health care bill, which would cause serious damage in New Hampshire and across the country. I appreciate the opportunity to keep you informed as I work to represent you. Because of feedback from constituents who have asked for in-depth updates, starting this week, we will now include a roundup of press releases at the bottom of the newsletter.

Fighting for our care

House Republicans' new bill would hurt New Hampshire workers and families by ending Medicaid expansion, driving up premiums, leaving [an estimated 15 million](#) fewer Americans with coverage than before the law passed, and setting us back in the fight against the heroin, fentanyl, and opioid epidemic.

Despite months of pleas from their own constituents, who are terrified about losing their coverage, House Republicans have written a bill that shows total disregard for the people they are supposed to represent and instead bows to special interests, giving tax breaks to the wealthiest and to insurance executives and asking working families to pay the price. After almost eight years, House Republicans still refuse to say how much their plan would cost and how many people it would force off their coverage – Republican leadership is trying to jam their bill through before the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office even has the chance to say how it would impact the number of people with insurance and the deficit.

I sit on the Education and Workforce Committee, which marked up health care bills this week as part of the attempt to rush harmful healthcare legislation through the House. During remarks introducing my amendment, I highlighted how the Republican health care bill's repeal of Medicaid expansion as well as mental health and substance use parity protections would set New Hampshire back in the fight against the heroin, fentanyl, and opioid epidemic. Experts estimate that repealing the Affordable Care Act's coverage provisions would cause about [2.8 million Americans](#) with a substance use disorder to lose some or all of their coverage. Watch my speech here:



Read more in this article: [GOP health-care bill would drop addiction treatment mandate covering 1.3 million Americans.](#)

Advocating for our servicemembers and veterans

This week, I co-introduced bipartisan legislation to ensure our National Guard and Reserve Components receive the benefits they have earned. Some servicemembers are ineligible for education, health, and retirement benefits because of the way they were called up for service. This is unfair and unacceptable. Our legislation will fix this problem and ensure that all servicemembers who are called to duty receive the benefits they earned serving our country.

Many veterans rely on caregivers to provide essential health care and support, such as communicating with the veteran's health care team, helping with daily routines, and managing medication. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) helps many caregivers of post-9/11 veterans by providing them a monthly stipend and reimbursement for travel expense. Caregivers enable many veterans to receive care at home instead of in long-term care facilities. I believe that all our nation's heroes should have this option, so I introduced legislation to extend these benefits to veterans of all eras.

This week [the VA agreed](#) to begin providing urgent mental health care services to veterans who were discharged with "bad papers." This achieves many of the goals I have been fighting for with the Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act together with veterans, VSOs, and bipartisan colleagues. So many of our veterans that commit suicide have been denied access to the VA health care system because of how they were discharged, which is often the result of an undiagnosed mental health condition. Providing these veterans who are at risk of suicide with mental health care is long overdue.

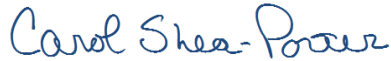
Veterans represent 30% of new hires at federal agencies nationwide, and the federal government's hiring freeze continues to prevent many veterans from obtaining employment at federal agencies. I sent a letter to President Trump [urging him](#) to exempt veterans from the hiring freeze because our government should not make it harder for our heroes returning from service to find civilian employment.

In closing

As always, I enjoyed meeting with constituents making the trip down to D.C. to advocate for important causes. Check out the pictures [here](#).

Next week, I will keep standing up in Congress against attempts to take health care away from Granite Staters. If you'd like to share your story with me to highlight with my colleagues, please email NHStories@mail.house.gov.

Best Wishes,



Carol

This week's press releases

- [Republicans Vote to Allow Selling of Children's Personal Health Information](#)
- [Shea-Porter, Palazzo, Walz & Franks Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Ensure Fairness in Benefits among Deployed Troops](#)
- [Citing New Hampshire Heroin Crisis, Shea-Porter Amendment Defends Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment](#)
- [Shea-Porter and 23 Colleagues Lead Effort to Exempt Veterans From President Trump's Federal Hiring Freeze](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on House Republican Healthcare Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Second Trump Travel Ban](#)



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